

# MSHS COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Practices

Updated: September 6, 2023

This policy is subject to change based upon updated information from the CDC, NYS Department of Health, and other sources.



**Mount  
Sinai**

# PUI and COVID-19 Positive Definitions

## PUI = Person/Patient under investigation

- Test pending for COVID-19
- Isolation Room Type = Single Room\*
- Isolation Designation: Special Droplet + Contact Precautions

## COVID-19 Positive

- Positive result for COVID-19
- Cohorting allowed\*
- Isolation Designation: Special Droplet + Contact Precautions

*\*Does not need to be negative pressure*

# COVID-19 Precautions Signage



## Special Droplet Precautions



**Visitor Restriction.**  
ALL visitors must check in at nursing desk before entering.  
Las visitas deben anunciar se en el mostrador de enfermería antes de entrar a esta habitación.

 **Clean hands when entering and exiting the room**  
Límpiese las manos al entrar y salir del cuarto

 **Put on a fitted N-95 mask prior to entering**  
Colóquese una máscara N-95 a medida antes de entrar

 **Put on eye protection prior to entering**  
Colóquese un protector ocular antes de entrar

 **Keep the door closed**  
Mantenga la puerta cerrada

 **Disinfect shared patient equipment**  
Desinfecte equipo que se comparta entre pacientes



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## Contact Precautions



**Visitors must report to the nurses' station before entering this room.**  
Las visitas deben anunciarse en el mostrador de enfermería antes de entrar a esta habitación.

 **Clean hands when entering and exiting the room**  
Límpiese las manos al entrar y salir del cuarto

 **Put on a gown and gloves**  
Póngase una bata y guantes

 **Disinfect shared patient equipment**  
Desinfecte equipo que se comparta entre pacientes



# PPE = Personal Protective Equipment

## ▶ **Who Requires PPE?**

- Staff caring for any PUI or confirmed positive COVID-19 patient will follow Special Droplet Precautions in addition to Contact Precautions

## ▶ **What constitutes PPE for PUI, and Positive COVID-19?**

- N95-respirator, Gown, Gloves, Eye protection

# Sequence for Putting on (Donning) PPE

## SEQUENCE FOR PUTTING ON PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

The type of PPE used will vary based on the level of precautions required, such as standard and contact, droplet or airborne infection isolation precautions. The procedure for putting on and removing PPE should be tailored to the specific type of PPE.

### 1. GOWN

- Fully cover torso from neck to knees, arms to end of wrists, and wrap around the back
- Fasten in back of neck and waist



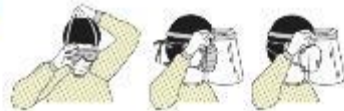
### 2. MASK OR RESPIRATOR

- Secure ties or elastic bands at middle of head and neck
- Fit flexible band to nose bridge
- Fit snug to face and below chin
- Fit-check respirator



### 3. GOGGLES OR FACE SHIELD

- Place over face and eyes and adjust to fit



### 4. GLOVES

- Extend to cover wrist of isolation gown



## USE SAFE WORK PRACTICES TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND LIMIT THE SPREAD OF CONTAMINATION

- Keep hands away from face
- Limit surfaces touched
- Change gloves when torn or heavily contaminated
- Perform hand hygiene



# Sequence for Taking off (Doffing) PPE

## HOW TO SAFELY REMOVE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) EXAMPLE 1

There are a variety of ways to safely remove PPE without contaminating your clothing, skin, or mucous membranes with potentially infectious materials. Here is one example. Remove all PPE before exiting the patient room except a respirator, if worn. Remove the respirator after leaving the patient room and closing the door. Remove PPE in the following sequence:

### 1. GLOVES

- Outside of gloves are contaminated!
- If your hands get contaminated during glove removal, immediately wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Using a gloved hand, grasp the palm area of the other gloved hand and peel off first glove
- Hold removed glove in gloved hand
- Slide fingers of ungloved hand under remaining glove at wrist and peel off second glove over first glove
- Discard gloves in a waste container



### 2. GOGGLES OR FACE SHIELD

- Outside of goggles or face shield are contaminated!
- If your hands get contaminated during goggle or face shield removal, immediately wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Remove goggles or face shield from the back by lifting head band or ear pieces
- If the item is reusable, place in designated receptacle for reprocessing. Otherwise, discard in a waste container



### 3. GOWN

- Gown front and sleeves are contaminated!
- If your hands get contaminated during gown removal, immediately wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Unfasten gown ties, taking care that sleeves don't contact your body when reaching for ties
- Pull gown away from neck and shoulders, touching inside of gown only
- Turn gown inside out
- Fold or roll into a bundle and discard in a waste container

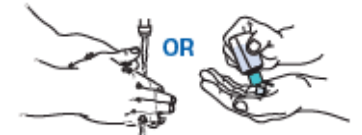


### 4. MASK OR RESPIRATOR

- Front of mask/respirator is contaminated — DO NOT TOUCH!
- If your hands get contaminated during mask/respirator removal, immediately wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Grasp bottom ties or elastics of the mask/respirator, then the ones at the top, and remove without touching the front
- Discard in a waste container



### 5. WASH HANDS OR USE AN ALCOHOL-BASED HAND SANITIZER IMMEDIATELY AFTER REMOVING ALL PPE



PERFORM HAND HYGIENE BETWEEN STEPS IF HANDS BECOME CONTAMINATED AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER REMOVING ALL PPE



\*Note, Example 2 for doffing which is commonly used in the OR can be found at this website: <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/ppe/ppe-sequence.pdf>

# PPE Recommendations for Patient Room with Multiple COVID+ Patients

- ▶ PPE according to Special Droplet Precautions for the usual care of COVID+ patients: N95 respirator, eye protection, gloves, and gown
- ▶ Gloves must be changed between patients
- ▶ Hand hygiene must be performed when changing gloves
- ▶ The rest of the PPE does NOT have to be changed between patient encounters in the same room

# Recommendations for Gown Use in the Setting of Cohorted COVID-19 Positive Patients

- ▶ COVID-19 patients and patients under investigation (PUIs) are on Special Droplet and Contact Precautions; gowns should be worn to protect from droplets
- ▶ The gowns currently available in our hospitals for care of a COVID-19 patient are adequate to protect the healthcare worker from contamination even during aerosol generating procedures
- ▶ The same gown can be worn when caring for COVID-19 patients cohorted in the same room. This allows the healthcare worker to complete their tasks efficiently and avoid the risk of contamination by doffing less frequently
  - If a COVID-19 patient is not cohorted in the same room, gowns and gloves must be discarded before leaving the room
- ▶ If the gown becomes visibly soiled or torn, please plan on exiting the room and remove and discard as per usual practices

## Eye Protection

During periods of low to minimal transmission of COVID-19 in the community:

- ▶ Eye protection are recommended but not required when providing direct patient care
  - Acceptable eye protection include a surgical mask with an attached face shield, a full face shield, or goggles



## PPE Recommendations during Aerosol Generating Procedures

- ▶ An N-95 respirator along with eye protection is highly recommended for staff who are performing aerosol generating procedures on patients who regardless of COVID-19 infection status
- ▶ Eye protection has always been part of standard precautions when performing aerosol generating procedures even before the COVID-19 pandemic. Aerosol generating procedures that are likely to generate splashes of blood, body fluids, secretions especially suctioning and endotracheal intubation/extubation even on patients who test negative for COVID-19 infection

# N95 Respirators and Facial Hair

- ▶ Close fitting respirators need to seal tightly to the face. Gaps in the face-seal let the dirty air leak inside the N95 respirator.
- ▶ Face seal leakage reduces the wearer's protection. Even a day or two's growth of stubble can be enough to give significant leak paths for contaminants.
- ▶ Staff must be ready to don the appropriate N-95 respirator that they have been fit tested for at the start of each shift.
- ▶ Facial hair must be trimmed consistent with the chart below.
- ▶ Staff with religious or other concerns should discuss with their manager, who may consult with Labor Relations.

